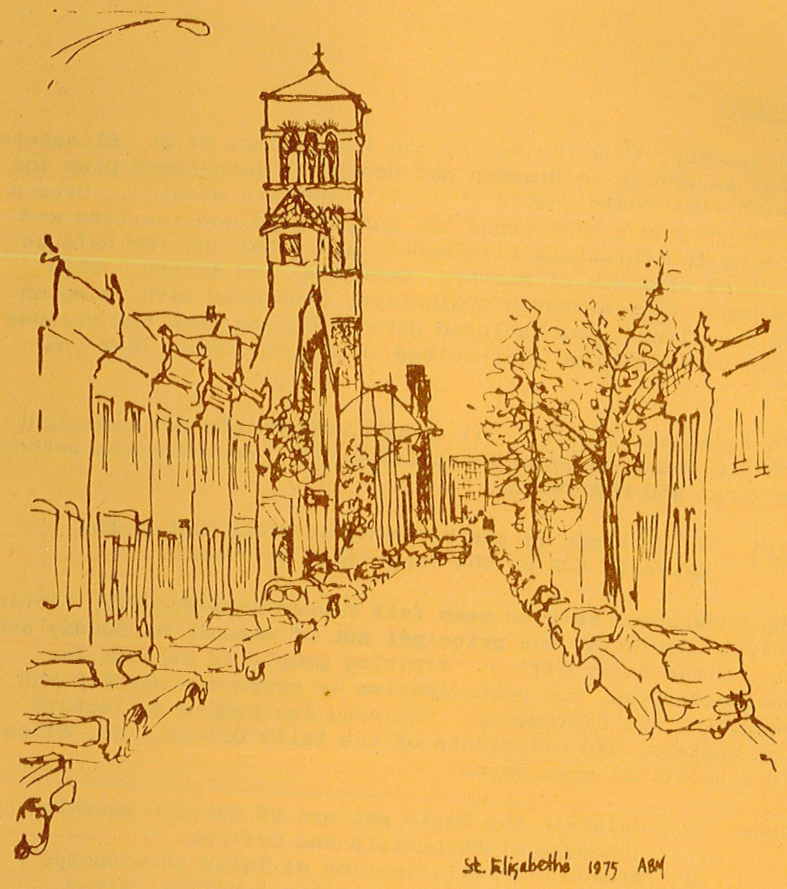

ST. ELISABETH'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1606 MIFFLIN STREET

PHILADELPHIA, PA. 19145

FOUR YEAR PARISH PLAN

Summer 1981 through Summer 1985

THE CHURCH'S MISSION: "To restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ" BCP p. 855

Background:

In January, 1980 the vestry and lay leaders of St. Elisabeth's undertook an effort to discern and develop a long-range plan for the parish that would enable it to live out its mission. Over a period of one and a half years the parish examined its life and gifts using the Christian Life Model, and examining the balance of the three elements of Worship, Doctrine, and Action. This process began with a vestry evaluation, continued with using an outside consultant, and included data gathering from the various guilds in the parish which resulted in the following four year plan.

It is understood that all groups responsible for oversight of specific goals do so in cooperation with and under the authority of the Vicar and the vestry.

Worship: "to continue in the breaking of bread and in the prayers" BCP p. 304 (Baptismal Covenant)

We understand this to mean full Prayer Book worship, including the Holy Eucharist as the principal act of worship on Sunday and the use of the Daily Office. Training people in methods for personal devotions, for participation in corporate worship and for receiving the sacraments. Training lay people as lectors, chalice bearers, and officiants of the Daily Office. St. Elisabeth's a spiritual powerhouse.

Strategy:
1. Maintain the basic pattern of current worship schedule of Eucharists and Offices.
2. Broadening participation of laity in worship.
3. Maintain vestments, worship supplies, altar linens, etc.
4. Continue to hold a parish retreat yearly.
5. Participation of parish members in full sacramental life.
6. Maintain meetings of all Guilds on a regular basis as scheduled.
7. Actively seek new members for all Guilds to be trained: encourage present members to recruit.
8. Continue educational work regarding the sacrament of Penance.
9. Maintain area of sale of devotional tracts, prayer books, religious articles, etc.
10. Keep door open for personal devotions (when staff is on site).

Objectives	Target Date	Responsible
1. Increase number of sub-deacons and lay readers with initial emphasis on recruiting males.	Fall, 1982	St. Mary Magdalene Guild

2. Establish choir.	Fall, 1982	
3. Secure permanent organist.	Winter, 1982	
4. Get requim set - white with black or phreys	As resources allow	Altar Guild
5. White set for feasts, possibly repairing existing sets.	Easter, 1982	Altar Guild
6. Get items for proper liturgy; oil stock, gospel book, advent wreath for Lady Chapel	1985	Altar Guild
7. Frontals - old frontals restored for free standing altar use.	As resources allow	Altar Guild
8. St. Mary Magdalene Guild: develop program of members making presentations at meetings as a basis for discussion.	Nov. 1981	Director of Guild
9. St. Vincent's Guild: Develop a full training program that meets needs of those requiring initial training and those able to make use of more advanced education about liturgy.	Fall, 1983	Director of Guild
10. Train older members of St. Vincent's Guild to train younger members.	Fall, 1982	Director of Guild
11. Have at least two adult advisors of St. Vincent Guild.	Spring, 1982	
12. Altar Guild- stabilize work to conform to job description, esp: consistent attention to work areas, regular guild meetings, increased self management and skill and knowledge development.	Fall, 1982	Director of Guild & Parish Staff
13. Revise handout for Rule of Life, put in attractive format; make available beyond the parish.	Fall, 1983	St. Ignatius Guild
14. Increase times scheduled for confessions to four times a year.	1981-82	
15. Develop a booklet for helping lead people through an initial assessment of their	Spring, 1983	St. Ignatius Guild

spiritual life. For use alone or with spiritual guides.		
16. Establish a guild of trained spiritual guides.	Fall, 1984	
17. Develop education program on spiritual dynamics --put in a form that could be conducted by lay catechists and/or spiritual guides.	Fall, 1983	
18. Revise parish prayer list using dates of Baptism	St. Elisabeth's Day, 1981	
19. Develop stronger sense of "holy space" - silence before and after Mass, private prayer in church, general reverence, slow down, reverence toward the Blessed Sacrament.	Fall, 1982	St. Mary Magdalene Guild
20. Healing: advertise regular schedule for healing service after Sunday Mass.	Spring, 1982	

Doctrine: "to continue in the Apostles' teaching and fellowship" BCP p. 304 (Baptismal Covenant)

Teaching the basics of Scripture and Holy Tradition. Bringing people in contact with the Truth that is the city of God. Helping people to know The Story of The People of God as their story

Strategy: 1. The parish will continue offering all programs of Christian education currently operating under the Christian Life Institute, including:

A. New Member Class - to be offered in some form for all new members, establishing the ability to respond to various time requirements.

B. The Christian Life - as the basic offering for adults.

C. Parents' Nights - two or three times per year.

D. At least one short-term bible study per year.

E. Continue offering special educational programs during Lent.

2. Continue our current approach to Christian education of our children, so that each child can:

A. Come to know the love of God in Christ.

B. Learn that they have a place in the Church and in God's Kingdom.

C. Learn the basics of Christian life and tradition.

D. Come to know themselves to be respected, valued and trusted as persons with identity and vocation.

E. Learn to relate the teachings of the Church to their own lives.

3. Continue to build resources in our parish library, adding some new titles each year, focusing on titles likely to have long-term use. To encourage use of the library, books will be reviewed periodically in the parish newsletter.

4. The offering for young people (catechism class) will be continued, as it has been developed, with minor revisions.

5. To continue to develop all of these programs, the Guild of St. Ignatius of Antioch, parish catechists, will move toward self management and cooperate with the Vicar in overseeing educational offerings, focusing on the following objectives.

Objectives	Target Date	Responsible
1. Refine content of New Member Class.	1/82	St. Ignatius
2. Put a notebook together for conducting the Christian Life course, including goals, outline of each session, context notes, exams, etc. Useable by lay catechists.	Fall, 1984	St. Ignatius
3. Develop the "Christian Life" to a point where at least half can be done by catechists.	Fall, 1982	St. Ignatius
4. Develop norm of participation by parents, church school teachers, catechists (when topic is related to their work in Parents' Night.	Spring, 1983	St. Ignatius
5. Develop a format of Programs for Parents' Night as seen over several years.	Winter, 1981	St. Ignatius
6. Develop "tests" on "basics for church members" --use as an educational tool (scripture, BCP)	Spring, 1983	St. Ignatius

7.	Church School - develop a schedule of areas to cover over a five-year period.	Spring, 1983	St.Ignatius
8.	Refine overall Church School format.	Spring, 1983	St. Ignatius
9.	Bring all Church School teachers up to standards as stated in job description.	Fall, 1984	St.Ignatius
10.	Review Church School teacher job descriptions and revise as needed.	Fall,1983	St. Ignatius
11.	Find a librarian for the parish library.		St. Ignatius
12.	Develop an improved system for keeping record of titles, lending procedure, etc.	Fall, 1984	St. Ignatius
13.	Develop an adequate section in library for children and youth.	Fall, 1982	Church School Teachers & Y. P. F.
14.	Do a complete review of Young People's Catechism Class and make needed revisions.	Fall, 1984	St. Ignatius
15.	Develop a series of questions and answers to be used at announcements at Eucharist (presented by members of St. Ignatius Guild) in the following areas. A. The Story of the People of God B. Scriptures C. Book of Common Prayer D. Christian Moral Vision E. Devotional Societies and Fellowships in the Church F. Train people to use the Daily Office G. Rule of Life H. Evangelism	Spring, 1982	St. Ignatius
16.	Revise job description for Guild of St. Ignatius based on experience.	Fall, 1982	St.Ignatius
17.	Research gaps in history of St. Elisabeth's.	Fall, 1982	St Ignatius
18.	Write paper including history; format for tour of Church building; list of clergy; put in integrated attractive booklet form.	Spring,1984	St. Ignatius
19.	Classes and sessions re: marriage and family; renewal of marriage vows, general teaching re: preparation for and upholding of sacraments.	Spring 1983 - Spring 1984	St. Ignatius

Action: "to represent Christ and His Church and bear witness to Him wherever they may be" BCP p 855 (Catechism)

We understand this to be Corporate action of evangelism, advocacy, service and stewardship. The parish involved in the fullness of Christian action by giving attention to each of these expressions of faith. Enabling lay people in their vocation and ministry.

A Advocacy and Service "Strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human"

Strategy:

1. supporting the work of the South Philadelphia Team Ministry, the Urban Parish Coalition, the Fairmount Team and related groups

2. Continue support for community organization efforts within the parish "boundaries". Make use of City Action Fund. Stay in contact with Crisp/Ucan, Spin, Dixon House

3. Continue procedure that allows policy of making meeting space available to neighborhood groups that serve the community.

4. Expand summer program so more participants can be secured: move toward increased self-support of programs

Objectives

1. Vicar and lay leaders of the parish will be encouraged to make themselves available to speak at other parishes and interested groups.

2. Support and develop urban mission instruments for advancing urban mission.

3. Initiate and/or explore with others an urban parish training program (diocesan and/or national) that focuses on equipping clergy for urban parish ministry

4. Enable parish leaders to become more familiar with issues of urban mission strategy, including reading material from Urban Caucus, "Stay in The City", etc. Especially Vestry, Catechists, Church School Teachers.

5. Develop a stable source for the food cupboard,

develop structure and capacity that enables the meeting of needs on a regular basis.

6. Establish a Day Care Center explicitly an Episcopal Center, to serve as possible base for parish school.

7. Investigate possible use of endowment fund as resource to enable housing development or to meet other social needs with adequate concern for internal needs of parish.

8. Begin to develop plans and resources for a parish school.

9. Develop group of lay visitors to sick, shut-ins, lapsed members.

B. Evangelism "Proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ"

To proclaim and share the faith that people are brought into a relationship with Jesus Christ in the fellowship of His Church

Strategy:
1. Continue to develop an approach that combines a Catholic inclusion of the many and a Catholic discipline and maturity, i.e., ethnic groups, whites, asians, blacks.
2. Maintain Espicopal signs, properly hung in neighborhood.
3. Work with South Philadelphia parishes and/or Team as appropriate, secure special funding

Objectives	Target Date	Responsible
1. Develop ways to deal with those that come - accept as starting point for access to homes, others, etc., learn to be more direct in "laying the claim" of Christ and His Church; work on inclusion of children who come without parents	Fall '82	Evangelism Team
2. Put together packets of a new members (normally used with new member class) include: parish brochure, SPTM weekday worship, pledging information, information on Episcopal Church, articles published	Fall '81	Evangelism Team
3. Work with Denise to get article finished and published	mid summer '81	Denise

4. Get remainder of current Evangelism flyers out.	Summer '81	Staff and Evangelism Team
5. Develop system for efficient distribution of printed material to neighborhood		
6. Work on better use of community newsletter - content, format, schedule	Fall '81	Staff
7. Establish at least one "outreach center" (store front)	as resources become available	Evangelism Team
8. Increase membership and activity of Evangelism Team. Move toward it becoming self-managing under Vicar's general oversight	Late Fall '81	Evangelism Team
9. Work toward identifying group, able to fulfill duties of welcoming and tour conducting	February '82	Greetors
10. New Asian population: develop in cooperation with South Philadelphia Team Ministry occasional services in private homes groups in various neighborhoods of parish	As resources available	Evangelism Team

C. Stewardship: "And God saw that it was good"

A faithful use and enjoyment of all creation, our resources and our gifts. A concern for the effect on the coming generation.

Strategy:
1. Continue regular system of pledging that calls members to a standard of proportional and sacrificial giving.
2. On-going system of property maintenance and repairs.
3. Continue to identify and develop gifts talents of parish members.

Objectives	Target Date	Responsible
1. Implement another appeal for the Endowment Fund	Spring '83	Treasurer
2. Implement another appeal for Venture in Mission - strive to meet our pledge	Fall '81	Denise and Treasurer
3. Consider and decide on Stewardship Consultation	March '82	Vestry
4 Develop and build a committee to work on property (regular meetings)	Fall '82	Property Chairman
5. Explore Parish Partnerships	As appropriate	Vestry
6. Develop and give program on vocation, gifts	next 4 years during Lent	St. Ignatius Guild

Oversight: "The Vicar is to exercise oversight that will provide for, protect and enable wholeness in parish life"

We understand this to include: transforming Community, Spiritual Development and Management/Administration so that the congregation may be led into the Holy Order of Christ, to enable spiritual formation, to envision and plan

Strategy:

+ Maintain regular meetings with Vicar and Warden.

+ Continue regular fellowship and community

+ Annual parish data gathering and evaluation

+ Annual vestry evaluation

+ Maintenance and monitoring of existing organizational structures

Objectives	Target Date
+ Guild leaders regularly report to vestry re work responsibility, progress and plan	Fall '82
+ Vestry and other parish leaders allot time to reflect on the function of oversight and establish any additional objectives	Fall '82